REMARKS

Claims 21-39 are pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 31 being independent.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 39 is allowable. (Action, page 3, paragraph 2.) Applicants continue to gratefully acknowledge that Claims 22-30 and 32-38 would be allowable. (Action, page 3, paragraph 2.) Applicants continue to expressly reserve the right to re-present Claims 22 and 32 in independent form.

Claims 21 and 31 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by German Patent No. 41 03 685 (Korff, et al.). The reason for this rejection is set forth at page 2, paragraph 2 of the Action. Applicants continue to traverse this rejection.

The present invention as defined by Claim 21 is a process for attaching an oil sump to an engine block of a combustion engine, a seal being made by a curable composition between a first sealing surface on the oil sump and a second sealing surface on the engine block, to which the curable composition is applied to one or both sealing surfaces. When cured, the curable composition demonstrates adhesion sufficient to secure the oil sump to the engine block. In addition, and importantly threaded bolts are not used as fastening elements for attaching an oil sump to an engine block of a combustion

engine. And the oil sump is fixed to the engine block at least during the curing of the curable composition.

Claim 31 defines the present invention as a combustion engine comprising an engine block and an oil sump attached thereto. The oil sump is attached to the engine block with a curable composition whose adhesion when cured is sufficient to secure the oil sump to the engine block.

The fact that threaded bolts are not used distinguishes Claims 21 and 31 from Korff, et al.

Korff, et al. appears to be directed to a process for reducing the vibration and noise issues associated with the attachment of an oil pan to a crank case during use. More specifically, reference to Figures 1 and 2 of Korff, et al. shows that an oil pan two is attached to an intermediate part 3 and 6 (in Figure 1) and 2 (in Figure 2) by way of a flexible adhesive. This pre-assembled structure is then attached to a crank case 1 through the use of the bolt 7.

Thus, in contrast to the present invention, bolts are indeed used to attach the oil pan to the crank case in Korff, et al.

It is well settled that to be an effective anticipatory reference, a cited document must disclose each and every limitation recited in a claim under examination. Failing such

precise disclosure, such a cited document must fail as an anticipatory reference.

Therefore, Korff, et al. does not anticipate eitehr of Claims 21 or 31.

Accordingly, in view of these amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and rejections have been addressed, and they should no longer be maintained. Applicants further submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such an indication in the next written communication.

This paper represents an earnest attempt at advancing prosecution on the merits, and thus respectfully submits that entry thereof is proper.

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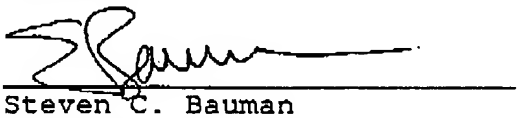
Respectfully submitted,



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